

DATE: NOV 9 1979

NO. 204

Dover AFB Admits Blips at Scene of UFOs

By JEFFREY R. WELSH

Dover Air Force Base has confirmed that its approach radar reported two unidentified contacts about six miles south-southeast of Laurel Monday morning — at the same time and location that Delaware State Police were watching

OCT 17 1979
WILMINGTON, DEL.
JOURNAL

two objects hovering motionless in the sky.

Twice earlier this week, a base spokesman had said there had been no contacts on the base radar.

But Maj. Robert Groom, the base information officer, emphasized that the Air Force, by confirming the unidentified radar blips, was not reporting a UFO sighting. He suggested the radar may have been showing "ground clutter" — objects on the ground which frequently appear on radar screens.

According to Groom, the operator reported the radar images at least three times Monday morning while in contact with state police and the U.S. Coast Guard in Cape May, N.J.

Earlier on the same night the state troopers were watching the lights near Laurel, Smyrna policemen and residents had reported similar sightings.

The Air Force officially confirmed the radar contacts only after being told the Evening Journal had learned from state police and the Coast Guard that an air base radar operator had confirmed the con-

tacts in several phone conversations early Monday morning.

Later, a man who identified himself as a pilot called the Federal Aviation Administration station at the Wicomico County (Md.) Airport to report a similar sighting in Delaware early Monday morning. He said he couldn't tell if the unidentified object was in the air or on the ground.

The state troopers watched the UFOs off and on until nearly dawn. The sky grew lighter and the objects disappeared from view.

According to Sgt. Robert West, desk officer at Bridgeville Sunday night, the troopers said the objects were stationary and made no sound.

Monday morning, an air base spokesman said the only involvement of base personnel on duty Sunday night and Monday morning had been to relay a request from the

state police to the U.S. Coast Guard station in Cape May for a helicopter to check the sighting.

But the official Air Force version did not coincide with state police and Coast Guard reports.

During the night, a radar operator at Dover told both agencies that he did have contacts on the approach radar screen and pointed the location for the police as six miles east of Laurel. He estimated the altitude at 1,000 to 1,500 feet. According to state police, the operator said the objects at first seemed to be "going around and around." There were no aircraft in the area other than the two stationary objects.

At the request of state police, the air base duty officer called the Coast Guard for a helicopter to investigate, but it was being used somewhere else.

SEP 20 1979
MONROE, WIS.
TIMES

UFO seen?

A unidentified flying object that "lit up the sky" was reportedly seen near the Wisconsin-Illinois stateline by several persons at about 6 a.m. today.

An unnamed female motorist who saw the object, telephoned the Green County Sheriff's Department with the information.

LaVerne Wichelt, who was working the dispatch desk at the time, said he monitored several "point-to-point" conversations about similar reports between area law enforcement departments.

The woman said several other cars were pulled off the highway, apparently to watch the object, also.

The object was described as "whitish in color" and "went across the sky."

OCT 15 1979

AUSTIN, MINN.
HERALD

Sheriff reports 2 UFO incidents

Two incidents involving unidentified flying objects (UFO's) have been reported to the Mower County Sheriff's Department.

Both matters have been referred to the Center of the Study of UFO's in Evanston, Ill.

Thomas Braaten of Coon Rapids reported to the Sheriff's Department that shortly after he returned early Sunday to the Austin Rt. 2 residence where he was staying, he sighted two oblong-shaped objects in the sky to the east of the home located near County Road 3.

The two objects, one large, one small, emitted a white

colored steady glow and hovered for about 10 to 15 minutes. The two objects then moved off to the northeast. The incident occurred about 1 a.m. Sunday.

Thomas Gebhart of rural Waltham reported to the Sheriff's Department Sunday that between two to four weeks ago something broke or pushed down a 12 by 12 foot area of his bean field. There were two 4-inch deep depressions in the area where the beans had been burned.

The Sheriff's Department has received three other reports of UFO's in the past month.

INFORMATION, DATA, COMMENTARY AND SPECULATION

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